

Nanyang Technological University
Division of English
HL 2002 Renaissance Literature
Semester 1 (Academic Year 2023–2024)
Course Blog: <https://renaissanceliterature.wordpress.com>
Pass for lecture and presentations PPTs: RL2002

Course Coordinator: Associate Prof. Jane Wong Yeang Chui
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Office Hours: TBA
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Course Description

This course introduces major themes and authors in English Renaissance Literature. The works that we will be studying are concerned with Renaissance political traditions and intersections in European intellectual thought. These include the idea of governance and kingship, writing and patronage (and censorship), ethics and philosophy, and religious conflict in early modern England. This course aims to develop a strong foundation of what is arguably the most important historical period in the development of English literature. The materials covered in this course should also encourage students to consider how literary narratives merge with historical discourse to produce meaningful interpretations of English culture in the early modern period.

Important Notes

General Guidelines:

- All students who need to consult during office hours should send an email at least 3 working days ahead of time. Email queries are only acceptable if they do not involve lengthy discussion sessions to avoid miscommunication, instead you should make an appointment to see me in my office. Please allow at least a day or two for responses to emails (with the exception of weekends and public holidays).
- Office consultation: Please come prepared with questions so that we can address your concerns effectively and efficiently. Out of consideration for your classmates who may also need consultation time, I will limit consultations to about 20 mins for each student.
- I will not attend to group consultations and will see students individually.
- Be sure to arrive on time to class, and if you have to leave early, pls. let me know ahead of time. As usual, pls. be respectful to your classmates and be sure to turn off all electronic devices during lectures and tutorials.
- **All materials** distributed in class and on the course blog are meant to be used for class lectures and discussions only. They are not to be re-distributed outside of class for any

other purposes. If you wish to use the materials for your assignments, you must cite them accordingly.

- You are not allowed to record lectures in any form without permission formal permission to do so.

Attendance and Participation:

- If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to check our course blog for updates or announcements that you may have missed.
- If you are absent on the day when an in-class writing assignment is due, you will not be able to make-up for this. Those who are absent for presentations will not have the opportunity to make-up their work in another group's presentation.

Plagiarism, Generative AI, and Late Assignments:

- Plagiarism cases will be subject to university disciplinary action. Please familiarize yourself with the university's academic integrity policies here: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>
- You are not allowed to use any Generative AI platforms for all assignments in this class. Assignments that incorporate any use of generative AI constitutes a form of plagiarism.
- Late assignments: written assignments that are submitted late will receive a penalty of half a grade each day (including weekends and holidays); if I do not receive an assignment a week after it is due, you will receive a 0 for the essay.

Extension Requests:

- Blackout Period: the blackout period for extension is 1 week before and after the assignment deadline. This means that extension requests made during this period must be supported with documentation **and** a consultation with me to discuss work-in-progress.

Course Assessment:

Presentation	20%
Participation	10%
Critical Response (deadline 19 Sept.)	20%
Final Essay (deadline 14 Nov.)	50%

Required Texts:

Kyd, Thomas. *The Spanish Tragedy*. ISBN: 978-1904271604

Shakespeare, William. *The History of King Lear: The Oxford Shakespeare The History of King Lear*. ISBN: 978-0199535828*

Shakespeare, William. *Henry IV, Part 1* (Penguin Classics). ISBN: 978-0143130208*

Shakespeare, William. *Henry IV, Part 2* (Penguin Classics). ISBN: 978-0143131762*

Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queene, Books Three and Four (Bk. 3 & 4)* (Hackett). ISBN: 978-0872208551

Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus* (Norton Critical Editions). ISBN: 978-0393977547

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost* (Hackett Classics). ISBN: 978-0872207332

*NOTE ON PRESCRIBED TEXTS:

You are welcome to use your own edition of the texts listed above, however, but sure that you have copies with line numbers (and Act/Scene numbers for the plays).

If you are planning on taking HL 3030 Major Author: Shakespeare in the following semester, you should purchase Shakespeare, William. *The Complete Pelican Shakespeare* (2002). ISBN: 978-0141000589 instead of separate Shakespeare texts for this class. This text, however, has not been ordered this semester.

Tentative Course Outline

Week	Topic
Week 1 15 Aug.	Introduction (Presentation Sign-up)
Week 2 Romance 22 Aug.	Excerpts from Edmund Spenser's <i>Faerie Queene Book 3</i> (Cantos 1–2) *In addition, pls. also read "Letter to Raleigh" which can be found in the same text, on pages 451-454 (If you are using a different version of the book, the "Letter to Raleigh" is normally either at the beginning or the end of the text.)
Week 3 Romance 29 Aug.	Excerpts from Edmund Spenser's <i>Faerie Queene Book 3</i> (Cantos 3–7)

Week 4 Governance and Kingship 5 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV, Part I</i>
Week 5 Governance and Kingship 12 Sept.	Film (TBA)
Week 6 Governance and Kingship 19 Sept.	William Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV, Part II</i> Critical Response Deadline
Week 7 Tragedy 26 Sept.	Thomas Kyd's <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i>
Week 8 3 Oct.	Recess
Week 9 Tragedy 10 Oct.	William Shakespeare's <i>King Lear</i>
Week 10 Reformation 17 Oct.	Excerpts from John Foxe's <i>Book of Martyrs</i> (on course blog)
Week 11 Reformation 24 Oct.	Christopher Marlowe's <i>Dr. Faustus</i>

Week 12 Reformation 31 Oct. Religion	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (Books I and II)
Week 13 Religion 7 Nov.	Excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (Books III –V)
Week 14 Conclusion 14 Nov.	Review and closing comments Final Essay Deadline